

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-19 and 37-44 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claim 20 as follows:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A turf aerator comprising:

a crank shaft assembly including a rotatable crank shaft comprising a plurality of axially spaced plates and a plurality of eccentric bars, each of said eccentric bars being rigidly coupled to and extending between a respective pair of adjacent plates; and a plurality of generally upright tines, each of said tines including a connection portion rotatably coupled to a respective eccentric bar and a tip portion configured to cut and penetrate ~~remove plugs from~~ the turf, said tip portion extending radially from said respective eccentric bar.

21. (Original) The turf aerator according to claim 20,
each of said connection portions defining an opening through which a respective eccentric bar extends.

22. (Original) The turf aerator according to claim 21,
said connection portion including a base defining a first portion of the opening and a cap
defining a second portion of the opening,
said cap being releasably coupled to the base.

23. (Original) The turf aerator according to claim 22; and
a bushing at least partly received in the opening and disposed between the connection portion
and the eccentric bar.

24. (Original) The turf aerator according to claim 23,
said cap including a grease fitting for permitting lubrication of the bushing.

25. (Original) The turf aerator according to claim 20,
said tine including an elongated shaft portion extending between the connection portion and
the tip portion,
said tip portion including a removable end piece that is threadably coupled to the shaft
portion.

26. (Original) The turf aerator according to claim 20,
said aerator including less than 8 tines.

27. (Original) The turf aerator according to claim 20,
said aerator including 3 to 5 tines.

28. (Original) The turf aerator according to claim 20; and
a tine guide positioned generally below the crank shaft assembly and including a guide plate
defining a plurality of slots,
each of said slots receiving a respective one of the tines.

29. (Original) The turf aerator according to claim 28,
said guide plate being shiftable relative to the crank shaft assembly between an aeration
position and a transport position,
said guide plate causing shifting of the tines when the guide plate is shifted between the
aeration position and the transport position.

30. (Original) The turf aerator according to claim 29,
said tines being in a more upright position when the guide plate is in the aeration position
than when the guide plate is in the transport position.

31. (Original) The turf aerator according to claim 30; and
a body for supporting the crank shaft assembly and tine guide; and

a plurality of wheels rotatably coupled to the body and providing for movement of the body relative to the turf.

32. (Original) The turf aerator according to claim 31,
said tine guide including a pair of side supports, each of said side supports presenting first and second ends,
said first ends of the side supports being rigidly coupled to the guide plate,
said second ends of the side supports being pivotally coupled to the body so that the guide plate swings relative to the body along a substantially arcuate path when the guide plate is shifted between the aeration position and the transport position.

33. (Original) The turf aerator according to claim 31,
said crank shaft assembly including a pair of bearings rigidly coupled to the body and supporting the crank shaft for rotation relative to the body.

34. (Original) The turf aerator according to claim 33; and
a motor rigidly coupled to and supported by the body; and
a drive belt rotated by the motor,

said crank shaft assembly including a shieve rigidly coupled to the crank shaft and operably coupled to the drive belt so that rotation of the drive belt causes rotation of the shieve.

35. (Original) The turf aerator according to claim 34,
said body having a unibody construction.

36. (Original) The turf aerator according to claim 31; and
a top cover hingedly coupled to the body,
said top cover being selectively shiftable between a closed position wherein the top cover covers at least a portion of the crank shaft assembly and an open position wherein the crank shaft assembly is substantially uncovered.

37-44 (Canceled).

Please add new claims 45-61 as follows:

45. (New) A turf aerator comprising:
a crank shaft assembly including a rotatable crank shaft comprising a plurality of axially spaced plates and a plurality of eccentric bars, each of said eccentric bars having spaced apart ends, each of said eccentric bars disposed between a respective pair of

adjacent plates, said plates presenting opposite radially extending surfaces, each of said spaced apart ends being rigidly coupled to a respective one of said surfaces; and a plurality of generally upright tines, each of said tines including a connection portion rotatably coupled to a respective eccentric bar and a tip portion configured to cut and penetrate the turf.

46. (New) The turf aerator according to claim 45, each of said connection portions defining an opening through which a respective eccentric bar extends.

47. (New) The turf aerator according to claim 46, said connection portion including a base defining a first portion of the opening and a cap defining a second portion of the opening, said cap being releasably coupled to the base.

48. (New) The turf aerator according to claim 47; and a bushing at least partly received in the opening and disposed between the connection portion and the eccentric bar.

49. (New) The turf aerator according to claim 48,
said cap including a grease fitting for permitting lubrication of the bushing.

50. (New) The turf aerator according to claim 45,
said tine including an elongated shaft portion extending between the connection portion and
the tip portion,
said tip portion including a removable end piece that is threadably coupled to the shaft
portion.

51. (New) The turf aerator according to claim 45,
said aerator including less than 8 tines.

52. (New) The turf aerator according to claim 45,
said aerator including 3 to 5 tines.

53. (New) The turf aerator according to claim 45,
said tip portion extending radially from said respective eccentric bar.

54. (New) A turf aerator comprising:

a crank shaft assembly including a rotatable crank shaft comprising a plurality of axially spaced plates and a plurality of eccentric bars, each of said eccentric bars being rigidly coupled to and extending between a respective pair of adjacent plates;

a plurality of generally upright tines, each of said tines including a connection portion rotatably coupled to a respective eccentric bar and a tip portion configured to cut and penetrate the turf; and

a tine guide positioned generally below the crank shaft assembly and including a guide plate defining a plurality of slots,

each of said slots receiving a respective one of the tines,

said guide plate being shiftable relative to the crank shaft assembly between an aeration position and a transport position,

said guide plate causing shifting of the tines when the guide plate is shifted between the aeration position and the transport position.

55. (New) The turf aerator according to claim 54,

said tines being in a more upright position when the guide plate is in the aeration position than when the guide plate is in the transport position.

56. (New) The turf aerator according to claim 55; and
a body for supporting the crank shaft assembly and tine guide; and
a plurality of wheels rotatably coupled to the body and providing for movement of the body
relative to the turf.

57. (New) The turf aerator according to claim 56,
said tine guide including a pair of side supports, each of said side supports presenting first
and second ends,
said first ends of the side supports being rigidly coupled to the guide plate,
said second ends of the side supports being pivotally coupled to the body so that the guide
plate swings relative to the body along a substantially arcuate path when the guide
plate is shifted between the aeration position and the transport position.

58. (New) The turf aerator according to claim 56,
said crank shaft assembly including a pair of bearings rigidly coupled to the body and
supporting the crank shaft for rotation relative to the body.

59. (New) The turf aerator according to claim 58; and
a motor rigidly coupled to and supported by the body; and
a drive belt rotated by the motor,

said crank shaft assembly including a shieve rigidly coupled to the crank shaft and operably coupled to the drive belt so that rotation of the drive belt causes rotation of the shieve.

60. (New) The turf aerator according to claim 59,
said body having a unibody construction.

61. (New) The turf aerator according to claim 56; and
a top cover hingedly coupled to the body,
said top cover being selectively shiftable between a closed position wherein the top cover covers at least a portion of the crank shaft assembly and an open position wherein the crank shaft assembly is substantially uncovered.